

Crimes Reported in Cambridge

January 1 to March 31, 2003

| Crime | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | Change 02-03 |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Murder | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | Inc. |
| Rape | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | Inc. |
| Stranger | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | N.C. |
| Non-Stranger | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | Inc. |
| Robbery | 42 | 35 | 35 | 65 | +85% |
| Commercial | 8 | 9 | 13 | 15 | +15% |
| Street | 34 | 26 | 22 | 50 | +127% |
| Agg. Assault | 60 | 78 | 59 | 65 | +10% |
| Burglary | 114 | 119 | 203 | 106 | -48% |
| Residential | 77 | 89 | 166 | 65 | -61% |
| Commercial | 37 | 30 | 37 | 41 | +11% |
| Larceny | 585 | 647 | 604 | 519 | -14% |
| Building | 165 | 135 | 121 | 167 | +38% |
| Frm. Motor Vehicle | 125 | 193 | 129 | 94 | -27% |
| Person | 64 | 109 | 131 | 81 | -38% |
| Bicycle | 30 | 10 | 23 | 9 | -61% |
| Shoplifting | 93 | 133 | 110 | 86 | -22% |
| Residence | 41 | 43 | 46 | 49 | +7% |
| MV Plate | 45 | 13 | 23 | 19 | -17% |
| Services | 3 | 7 | 7 | 7 | N.C. |
| Misc. | 19 | 4 | 14 | 7 | N.C. |
| Auto Theft | 122 | 101 | 87 | 72 | -14% |
| Total Violent | 105 | 118 | 99 | 131 | +32% |
| Total Prop. | 821 | 866 | 894 | 697 | -22% |
| Index Total | 926 | 984 | 993 | 828 | -17% |

First Three Months in Review

Serious Crime dropped sharply in Cambridge in the First Quarter of 2003. During the first three months of this year, there were 164 fewer index crimes reported when compared with the same time period last year. The decrease from 993 incidents between January and March of 2002 to 829 serious crimes in 2003 translates into a 17% decline, the most significant reduction in serious crime in Cambridge for the First Quarter in over a decade.

The two key factors in why we are heralding such a major decline in serious crime are the 61% drop in housebreaks and the 31% swoon in larceny from the person. Both of these "hot" pattern driven crimes recorded a blistering pace in the first three months of 2002. There was not a single pattern identified for either of these property crimes in the First Quarter of 2003 and when combined, 151 fewer were recorded when compared with last year.

A quick review of other property related crimes points to the continued shrinking auto theft index (-14%) and a rise in thefts of credit cards from health clubs and churches.

Further analysis reveals that the 32% increase in violent crime was fueled by a surge in street robberies (127%) in and around the periphery of Central and Harvard Squares. Banks have been the targets in nine of the fifteen commercial robberies recorded in 2003. Six of the nine incidents have been cleared by arrest. The note-passing bank robbery trend has cooled off – only two similar type crimes occurred over the final seven weeks of the Quarter.

There were no murders recorded in Cambridge in the First Quarter of 2003.

January-March Crime, 2000-2003

